U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Technical Information Service

PB-257 593

First Annual Report of the Hazardous Materials Advirosy Committee - July 1971-July 1972

Environmental Protection Agency, Wash, DC

July 1972

268031

PB 257 593

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JULY 1971 - JULY 1972

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Washington, D. C. 20460

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NATIONAL TECHNICAL
INFORMATION SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SPRINGFIELD, VA. 22161

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET	1. Report No.	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No. PB-257 593
4. Title and Subtitle Annual Report (1st) of the Hazardous Materials Advisory Committee - July 1971-July 1972			5. Report Date Jul 72 6.
7. Author(s)			8. Performing Organization Rept. No.
9. Performing Organization Name and Address Environmental Protection Agency Washington, D.C.			10. Project/Task/Work Unit No. 11. Contract/Grant No.
12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address			13. Type of Report & Period Covered 14.

15. Supplementary Notes

16. Abstracts

The Hazardous Materials Advisory Committee (HMAC) was established May 21 by EPA Order 1385.5 and first met as the full Committee in July 1971. The Committee provides expert independent advice on issues related to the use of hazardous materials in the environment on a continuing basis. The Committee is composed of nongovernment individuals drawn from professional, industrial and academic fields who have a high level of competence in environmental sciences. There is also provision for concerned private citizens whose competence is not limited solely to technical analysis. Members are shown in Appendix A; regular consultants in Appendix B.

17. Key Words and Document Analysis. 17a. Descriptors

*Solid waste disposal,
*Hazardous wastes,
*Industrial wastes,
*Management planning,

Personnel,
Government policies,
National government.

17b. Identifiers/Open-Ended Terms

17c. COSATI Field Group 13 B

18. Availability Statement	19. Security Class (This Report)	21. No. of Pages
National Technical Information Service Springfield, Virginia 22161	UNCLASSIFIED	18p
	20. Security Class (This Page) UNCLASSIFIED	22. Price 3.50/2.25

FORM NTIS-35 (REV. 10-73) ENDORSED BY ANSI AND UNESCO. THIS FORM MAY BE REPRODUCED USCOMM-DC 8265-P74

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THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

The Hazardous Materials Advisory Committee (HMAC) was established May 21 by EPA Order 1385.5 and first met as the full Committee in July 1971. The Committee provides expert independent advice on issues related to the use of hazardous materials in the environment on a continuing basis. This advice includes: recommendations concerning needed research and monitoring activities, assessments of specific research efforts, identification of emerging environmental problems related to hazardous materials, advice regarding EPA relationships to other agencies concerned with hazardous materials, and other recommendations concerning the control of hazardous materials.

Late in the year, an additional function was assigned to the Committee by EPA Order 1385.5, Change 1:

> "Provides policy review and recommendations for research and research training grants in the areas of pesticides and alternate methods of pest control, radiation, and water hygiene pursuant to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 241."

This responsibility was subsequently exercised relative to review of four radiation grants.

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee is composed of nongovernment individuals drawn from professional, industrial and academic fields who have a high level of competence in environmental sciences. There is also provision for concerned private citizens whose competence is not limited solely to technical analysis. Members are shown in Appendix A; regular consultants in Appendix B.

The assignment of Mr. Roger Hansen to the Conservationist vacancy fills the 15th and last opening on the Committee roster. Mr. Hansen, a Denver lawyer, is Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Center on the Environment and Colorado Open Space Foundation. He brings to the Committee an excellent record of achievement in the areas of expertise for which he was selected by the Administrator.

MEETING PARTICIPATION

Eleven meetings of the full Committee of 14 members with four regular consultants and seven EPA program representatives were held. The Administrator, Mr. William D. Ruckelshaus; Mr. Marshall L. Miller, Special Assistant to the Administrator; Dr. Stanley M. Greenfield, Assistant Administrator for Research and Monitoring; Mr. David Dominick, Assistant Administrator for Categorical Programs; Dr. William M. Upholt, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticides Programs and 55 other EPA officials have met with the Committee at various times to discuss areas of particular interest.

Persons from other federal agencies who have met with the Committee include Dr. Charles Edwards, U. S. Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration; Dr. Terry Davies of the Council on Environmental Quality; Mr. George Hutton, Chairman, Federal Working Group on Pesticides, Dr. David Tyler of the National Science Foundation and twenty-one others from various agencies.

Sixteen representatives from several sectors of the universities, private agencies, and industries have attended HMAC meetings.

Senator Stephen Teale of the California State Legislature, Mr. Ralph Houghton of Canada and four others have met with the Committee, representing states and other countries.

Special study groups of the Committee met on 23 other occasions to carry out specialized aspects of the assignments to the Committee. Forty-one consultants served the Committee relative to its assignments for variable periods of time. The Chairman and Cochairman also held eight planning sessions.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

During the first year of operation, the Hazardous Materials Advisory Committee was assigned or undertook a number of noteworthy assignments.

1. The report "Policy and Guidelines for Registration of Disinfectants and Sanitizing Agents," requested by the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticides Programs, was forwarded to the Administrator on February 28.

2. The comprehensive report "Status of Toxaphene" was sent to the Administrator on March 1.

3. The report "Pest Control in Food Processing Plants and Other Food Handling Areas," requested by the Administrator, was forwarded to him on March 6.

4. A summary report on the role of biological control, requested by the Administrator, was provided him on May 30.

5. A summary and status report on pesticide and pesticide container disposal, requested by the Administrator, was forwarded to him on May 30.

6. The Division of Oil and Hazardous Materials, Office of Water Programs, requested a number of individual studies pertaining to the effect of hazardous substances on aquatic life forms. The Committee began these studies during the period covered by this report.

7. Concern over the environmental impact of the compounds hexachlorobenzene and hexachlorobutadiene resulted in Committee study. Accordingly, this was brought to the attention of the Assistant Administrator for Research and Monitoring by letter of October 4, and a briefing by industry representatives was arranged for him.

8. Committee evaluation of the evidence of thyroid carcinogenicity of ethylene thiourea was provided on November 22, to the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticides Programs. The evaluation was reportedly very helpful to the decision on the regulatory approach taken relative to compounds involved.

9. Results of Committee assessment of the dangers of freon propellants were brought to the attention of the Assistant Administrator for Research and Monitoring by letter of May 1, 1972.

10. The draft of an Agency cadmium report was reviewed by the Committee for the Special Assistant for Health Effects Research and Director of the Health Effects Research Branch, ORM. A written analysis was acknowledged by an Assistant to the Administrator to be of particular usefulness.

11. The study of nitrates, nitrites and nitrosamines is well along toward a rather comprehensive report to the Agency. Implications to humans, animals, aquatic organisms and plants will be included.

12. An overall study of herbicide uses requested by the Office of the Administrator, and begun by the Committee during the report period, will show general trends and will provide specific regulatory guidelines, as well.

13. A review of the extent and significance of phthalates and plasticizers in the environment was being completed at the end of the year.

14. The benefits of Federal-State cooperative monitoring were referred to the Assistant Administrator for Research and Monitoring by letter of September 13, 1971. A previously prepared proposal on the subject was forwarded with the letter.

15. The value of the Community Studies Program, as an integral part of EPA's overall program, was called to the attention of the Assistant Administrator for Research and Monitoring by letter of October 1.

16. A proposed system of integrated insect population control, to reduce use of hazardous control chemicals, was commended to the staff of the Assistant Administrator for Research and Monitoring by letter of October 22.

17. In response to a request by the Administrator, the Committee submitted to him an informal status report on the progress of the establishment of the National Center for Toxicological Research on November 11. The Committee inspected the Center's facilities.

18. In response to the Office of Water Program's request, the Committee prepared a critique of that Office's "Designation of Hazardous Substances" (required relative to application of the Water Quality Improvement Act), dated April 3, 1970.

19. The Committee's opinions on the draft proposal "Guidelines for evaluating the Safety of Pesticidal Chemicals," requested by the Office of Pesticides Programs were conveyed to the Deputy Assistant Administrator of that office on March 17, 1972.

20. At the request of the Office of Water Programs, the draft document "Pesticides in the Aquatic Environment" was reviewed and criticism offered. This document was required by Section 5 (1)(2) of the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970 (P.L.91-224).

21. A compilation of information resources for hazardous and related materials was prepared relative to "clearinghouse" needs. A copy was forwarded to the appropriate point in the Office of Research and Monitoring.

22. An outline for a proposed Supplement to the Report of the Secretary's Commission on Pesticides and Their Relationship to Environmental Health was prepared by the Committee and submitted to the Office of Research and Monitoring.

23. The Committee is completing an assessment of the environmental research that is conducted by the principal laboratories of the Agency.

24. The Committee proposed approach to a ranking of relative hazards of toxic materials is in process.

25. Informally, assistance has been provided to the new Office of Toxic Substances, to training efforts within the Agency and to the States through participation in meetings as participants and speakers.

26. A number of briefings were conducted by the Staff Office. These included briefings for EPA officials, officials of other government agencies, and interested scientists. Other staff activities are listed in Appendix C.

27. The Committee has maintained liaison with EPA media programs through the appointment of representatives from each group. In study areas, where HMAC has been involved, division heads and technical staff have often been involved in the particular studies. Liaison appointees representing EPA program offices have reportedly also benefited their offices through information derived from Committee briefings and discussions. The Committee has also maintained liaison with other federal agencies through appointed representatives from National Academy of Sciences, Food and Drug Administration, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and U. S. Department of Agriculture. Informal contact is also maintained with National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and National Science Foundation through Staff Office activities.

The Committee has received excellent cooperation from many professional societies. These included among others, the American Society for Microbiology, American Chemical Society, Weed Control Society, Society for Toxicology and the American Medical Association. The Chemical Specialty Manufacturers Association, National Pest Control Association and the National Sanitation Foundation have also provided information to the Committee on several occasions.

Members of the Committee from academic, scientific, and industrial areas have kept HPMAC informed of new developments and emerging problems in their diversified specialties. They have also been active in reporting activities in state governments, and professional societies. Members of the Staff Office have also been active in professional organizations and committees. For example, Dr. Malone is a member and serves on a number of environmental committees of the American Society for Microbiology, American Public Health Association, Health Physics Society, American Conference of Governmental Hygienists and American Industrial Hygiene Association. Presentations or other representations for the Committee and the Agency were made at more than eleven conferences, symposia, and other meetings by members of the Committee and staff. A number of consultations, prepublication reviews, papers and summaries were provided to professional societies and journals.

The Committee acknowledges the excellent cooperation and assistance provided by the consultants and private citizens who assisted in the development of its reviews and reports.

William S. Murray

William S. Murray, Ph.D.
Staff Director

APPENDIX A

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ROSTER OF MEMBERS

Dr. Emil M. Mrak — Chairman
Chancellor Emeritus — (Food Scientist and Educator)
University House
University of California
Davis, California 95616

Dr. William J. Darby — Cochairman
President — (Physician-Ph.D. Biochemist)
Nutrition Foundation, Inc.
99 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Mr. Errett Deck — (Regulatory Specialist)
Chairman, Legislative Committee
Association of American Pesticide
Control Officials
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dr. Leon Golberg — (Physician-Ph.D. Toxicologist)
Scientific Director, Research Professor of
Pathology
Institute of Experimental Pathology and
Toxicology
Albany Medical College
Albany, New York 12208

Dr. Frank B. Golley — (Ecologist)
Executive Director, Professor of Zoology
Institute of Ecology
University of Georgia at Athens
The Rockhouse
Athens, Georgia 30601

Dr. Gordon E. Guyer — (Entomologist)
Chairman, Department of Entomology
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

HMAC Roster of Members Continued

Mr. Roger P. Hansen (Conservationist)
Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Center on
the Environment
4260 East Evans Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80222

Dr. Paul E. Johnson (Nutritionist)
Executive Secretary
Food and Nutrition Board
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20418

Mr. William B. Murphy (Business Executive)
President
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Dr. Norton Nelson (Specialist in Environmental Medicine-Biochemist)
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New York University Medical Center
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Academy of Natural Sciences
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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

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Frankfort, Indiana 46041

Dr. Earl R. Swanson (Agricultural Economist)
Professor of Agricultural Economics
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Illinois
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Urbana, Illinois 61801

HMAC Roster of Members Continued

Dr. Wilson K. Talley (Nuclear Engineer)
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University Hall
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Dr. W. Leonard Weyl (Surgeon)
Chief of Surgery
Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital
601 S. Carlyn Spring Road
Arlington, Virginia 22204

APPENDIX B

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ROSTER OF REGULAR CONSULTANTS

Dr. Berwin A. Cole
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Science
Food and Drug Administration
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Dr. Dale R. Lindsay
Associate Director of Medical and
Allied Health Education
Duke University Medical Center
Building 16, Room 39
Veterans Administration Hospital
Durham, North Carolina 27705

Dr. Caro Luhrs
Medical Advisor to the Secretary
Office of the Secretary
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Room 231, East Administration Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20250

Mr. James G. Terrill, Jr.
Manager, Environmental Consulting
Environmental Systems Department
Westinghouse Electric Company
P. O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

APPENDIX C

STAFF OFFICE ACTIVITIES
(exemplified by last quarter only: April-June)

NUMBER OF FORMAL MEETINGS:	
HMAC	2 (normally 3)
NUMBER OF INFORMAL, HMAC-RELATED MEETINGS:	
Chairman's Conference	1
Cochairman's Conference	1
Ecological Research	2
Herbicide Study	4
Nitrogen Study	1
Radiation Grants Review	1
Deputy Administrator's Conference	1
OTHER MEETINGS:	
American Society for Microbiology	1
Agricultural Research Institute	1
National Science Foundation	1
NUMBER OF COPIES OF AGENDA MAILED FOR MEETINGS:	150*
NUMBER OF AGENDA AND GENERAL INFORMATION FOLDERS PREPARED FOR MEETINGS:	204*
NUMBER OF COPIES OF MINUTES MAILED FOR MEETINGS:	
HMAC	150*
NUMBER OF COPIES OF MEETING SUMMARIES:	
Herbicide Study	4
NUMBER OF PAGES OF REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT OFFICE:	30

* Less than usual for this quarter, since only 2 meetings held

APPENDIX C CONTINUED

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters to:	HMAC and Consultant Groups	43
	Universities	17
	Other	30
	International	5
	States	2
	Industries	6
	Other Federal Agencies	12
Memoranda to:	HMAC and Consultant Groups	23
	Other	61

NUMBER OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

Travel Authorizations	34*
Transportation Requests	44*
Travel Advances	30*
Travel Vouchers	69*

NUMBER OF PERSONNEL DOCUMENTS:

SF-52	12

NUMBER OF PAYROLL DOCUMENTS:

Time Cards	44
Pay Checks Mailed	41
Error Notices Submitted to Payroll	2
Error Notices Corrected and Received by HMAC	2

REQUISITIONS:

Printing	3
Purchasing	8

INFORMAL REPORTS TYPED, EDITED AND PROOFED BY THE SECRETARIAT:

Commentary on Biological Pest Control

Summary of the Pesticide and Pesticide Container Disposal Problem

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* Less than usual for this quarter, since only 2 meetings held

APPENDIX C CONTINUED

XEROXING: (actual pages)

Agenda and Agenda Items	600*
Minutes	750*
Herbicide Study	920
Nitrogen Study	2744
Other Background and Informational Data	2153

NUMBER OF MAILINGS:

Report of the Secretary's Commission on Pesticides	60
Mercury Report	20
Toxaphene Report	32
Pest Control in Food Handling Establishments Report	39
Disinfectants and Sanitizers Report	35
Other	672